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wiped them out. (Extract from a letter from Mr. W. N. Sands, Agricultural Superintendent, St. Vincent.)

Trinidad.—Toads are plentiful, and about in the wet season, breeding then. The wet season has been very irregular lately. August-October is given as the most likely time for securing material of the young stages. (Information given in a letter from Mr. F. W. Urich, Entomologist to the Board of Agriculture, Trinidad.)

Demerara.—*Bufo aqua* is extraordinarily common here and appears to breed about the commencement of the wet season, somewhere in November or thereabouts. (Extract from a letter from Mr. Gilbert E. Bodkin, Government Economic Biologist, Georgetown, Demerara.)

AUSTIN H. CLARK,
Washington, D. C.

ON THE PROBABLE ORIGIN OF THE TYPE SPECIMEN OF COPE'S *XANTUSIA PICTA*.

There can, I think, be no doubt that Cope's *Xantusia picta* is the same species as Stejneger's *Xantusia henshawi*. Cope, however, stated that the type of *X. picta* was from Tejon Pass, California, a locality situated much to the north of the known range of *X. henshawi*. I shall attempt to show that it is almost certain that Cope's type specimen really was collected at Poway, San Diego County, California, not very far from the type locality of Stejneger's species. The evidence, although circumstantial, seems clear. It is as follows:

1.—The type of *Xantusia picta* was sent to Cope by Mr. Rivers, who previously had sent Cope the type of *Xantusia riversiana*, and who was in charge of the natural history collections belonging to the University of California.

2.—In the early days of California museums the custom was to label specimens not with the exact locality of origin, but rather with the published habitat or range of the species.

3.—A short time after Stejneger described *Xantusia henshawii*, I visited the type locality, at Witch Creek, and obtained three specimens. Some time later Rivers, on seeing these specimens in my office, said:

“I see you have *Xantusia vigilis*. I sent a specimen to Professor Cope.”

4.—Some years later Dr. Frank E. Blaisdell gave me a bottle containing several specimens of *Xantusia henshawii*, collected by himself at Poway, San Diego County, California. These he had labeled *Xantusia vigilis* and upon my asking where he had gotten that name for them, he said from Mr. Rivers to whom he had given one of the same lot of specimens a long time before.

It therefore seems almost certain that the type of *Xantusia picta* was collected by Dr. Blaisdell at Poway, San Diego, County, California; that it was sent by Dr. Blaisdell to Mr. Rivers; that it was wrongly identified by Mr. Rivers as *Xantusia vigilis* and labeled with the habitat of that species; and that Cope was thus led into error regarding the type locality of his supposed new species, *Xantusia picta*.

JOHN VAN DENBURGH,

San Francisco, Cal.

A NOTE ON REPTILE COLLECTING.

Where reptiles are plentiful they are usually collected by means of a shotgun. One of the best that I have found for the purpose is built like a pistol, has 2 eighteen-inch, 22 and 44 gage barrels, and uses machine loaded cartridges with fine shot.